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Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07

NRC-05 OES-03 FEAE-00 DODE-00 OIC-02 IOE-00 SS-15

/104 W

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P 291433Z SEP 75
FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6463
INFO USERDA GERMANTOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USMISSION USUN NY
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 IAEA VIENNA 8300

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, AORG, IAEA, PARM, TECH
SUBJECT: IAEA 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE, ELECTION TO BOARD OF GOVERNORS

SUMMARY: FINAL PLENARY SESSION OF 19TH GC ELECTED FOLLOWING MEMBER STATES TO TWO YEAR TERM ON AGENCY'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS: CHILE, COLOMBIA, DENMARK, NETHERLANDS, POLAND, YUGOSLAVIA, SENEGAL, LIBYA, BANGLADESH, PHILIPPINES, INDONESIA. ELECTION CLIMAXED HOTLY CONTESTED CAMPAIGN, UNPRECEDENTED IN AGENCY'S
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HISTORY, WHICH AT ONE TIME INVOLVED FOUR OUT OF ELEVEN VACANCIES ON BOARD. WHILE SOMEWHAT BATTERED,

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PRINCIPLE OF SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL CANDIDATES APPEARS
TO HAVE SURVIVED. END SUMMARY.

1. AS DEPT AND SOME OTHER ADDRESSEES ALREADY AWARE,
GC FACED UNPRECEDENTED SITUATION ON EVE OF OPENING
OF 19TH REGULAR SESSION IN WHICH MEMBERS, LONG
ACCUSTOMED TO ROUTINE ELECTION INVOLVING CANDI-
DATES PUT FORWARD BY GEOGRAPHICAL REGION, FOUND
THEMSELVES FACED WITH CONTESTS FOR FOUR OUT OF
ELEVEN VACANCIES ON 34-MEMBER BOARD OF GOVERNORS.
THERE WERE THREE CANDIDATES FOR 2 SEATS REPRESENTING
LATIN AMERICA, TWO CANDIDATES FOR 1 SEAT OCCUPIED
BY MAHGREB STATES, TWO CANDIDATES FOR 1 SEAT
ALLOCATED TO FAR EAST AND TWO CANDIDATES
FOR SO-CALLED FLOATING SEAT SHARED BY THREE REGIONS.
BY BALLOTING TIME, TWO CONTESTS HAD BEEN RESOLVED
(LATIN AMERICA AND MAHGREB SEAT OF AFRICAN REGION).
VOTE ON REMAINING TWO CONTESTS WAS CLOSE BUT RESULTS
TENDED TO REFLECT CONSERVATIVE AND, ON THE WHOLE,
RESPONSIBLE CHOICE BY MAJORITY OF MEMBERS VOTING.

2. LATIN AMERICA:

AS REPORTED EARLIER, WHILE THE CANDIDACIES OF CHILE
AND COLOMBIA FOR TWO LATIN AMERICAN VACANCIES AP-
PEARED TO HAVE MAJORITY SUPPORT OF LA COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED IN VIENNA, MEXICO REMAINED ADAMANT
IN MAINTAINING ITS OWN CANDIDACY, REFUSING TO ATTEND
LA CAUCUS MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER AND IN-
SISTING THAT LA GROUP SHOULD MAKE NO ENDORSEMENT
OF CANDIDATES UNTIL ALL LA DELS ARRIVED IN
VIENNA. STALLING TACTIC NEARLY WORKED, FOR WHEN
CAUCUS MET ON SECOND DAY OF GC, MEXICO LOST TO
COLOMBIA BY ONLY ONE VOTE. INTERESTINGLY,
CHILE RECEIVED MORE VOTES FROM CAUCUS MEMBERS THAN
EITHER COLOMBIA OR MEXICO. TWO DAYS LATER, AP-
PARENTLY AFTER ASSESSING ITS CHANCES IN RUNNING
AS MAVERICK, MEXICAN DEL OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED MEXICO'S
WITHDRAWAL OF ITS CANDIDACY IN DEFERENCE TO REGIONAL
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CONSENSUS. PLENARY VOTE, WHILE IN LINE WITH REGIONAL
RECOMMENDATION, REFLECTED CONSIDERABLY CONFUSION WITH 79
VOTES FOR COLUMBIA, 53 FOR CHILE, WITH 22 ABSTENTIONS AND 14
VOTES FOR MEXICO. NONETHELESS, MEXICO'S FINAL WITHDRAWAL WAS
GRACEFUL AND IN KEEPING WITH LONG TRADITION IN BOARD ELECTIONS
THAT CANDIDATES ARE REGIONALLY RATHER THAN INDIVIDUAL-
LY PUT FORWARD. (MISSION APPRECIATES MEXICO'S HELPFUL
MESSAGE THIS SUBJECT.)

3. AFRICA:

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TRADITIONALLY, SEATS ALLOCATED TO AFRICA ARE SPLIT
EVENLY BY SUB-SAHARA REGION AND MAHGREB.
SENEGAL HAD EARLIER IN YEAR MADE KNOWN ITS CANDIDACY
(UNCONTESTED) FOR SEAT BEING VACATED BY GABON AND LIBYA
HAD ANNOUNCED ITS OWN WISH TO REPLACE SUDAN ON BOARD.

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ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07

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/104 W
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P 291433Z SEP 75
FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6464
INFO USERDA GERMANTOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
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MISSION WAS INFORMED THAT LIBYA'S CANDIDACY HAD
SUPPORT OF ARAB LEAGUE. NONETHELESS, ALGERIA
PUT FORWARD ITS OWN CANDIDACY SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.
ISSUE WAS NEATLY RESOLVED AT AFRICAN CAUCAS DURING
GC, WHEN ALGERIA AGREED TO WITHDRAW IN DEFERENCE TO

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LIBYA. WE UNDERSTAND THERE WERE NO HARD FEELINGS
AND SENEGAL AND LIBYA WERE ELECTED HANDILY.

4. FAR EAST:

CANDIDACY OF PHILIPPINES FOR FE SEAT BEING VACATED
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BY ROK WAS NOT SERIOUSLY CHALLENGED UNTIL WEEK PRE-
CEDING GC, WHEN SOUTH VIETNAM ENTERED CONTEST CLAIMING
SUPPORT OF HALF OF MEMBERS OF HETEROGENEOUS FE GROUP:
MONGOLIA AND DPRK, LEAVING PHILIPPINES WITH SUPPORT
OF JAPAN AND ROK, THE TWO REMAINING MEMBERS OF FE
GROUP. PHILIPPINE DEL THEN LEARNED TO ITS DISMAY
THAT USSR AND FE GROUP HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO SUPPORT
VIETNAM, ERASING EARLIER ASSUMPTION THAT PHILIPPINE
ELECTION TO BOARD WOULD BE FOREGONE CONCLUSION (HAVING
DISPOSED OF AN EARLIER SHORT-LIVED CHALLENGE BY DPRK).
BALLOTING ON THIS VACANCY GAVE SEAT TO PHILIPPINES
BUT WAS A CLOSE SHAVE. RESULTS: PHILIPPINES 45.,
VIETNAM 37; WITH 41 VOTES NEEDED FOR ELECTION (82
VALID VOTES CAST). FILIPINOS WERE BADLY SHAKEN AT NEARLY
HAVING BEEN UNHORSED DESPITE THEIR POSITION OF
LEADERSHIP OF LDCS IN AGENCY AFFAIRS.

5. FLOATING SEAT:

THIS SEAT, CREATED IN 1973 BY REVISION OF ARTICLE VI
OF IAEA STATUTE, IS ALLOCATED TO 3 REGIONS OF MIDDLE
EAST AND SOUTH ASIA, SOUTHEAST ASIA AND PACIFIC AND
FAR EAST. SINCE SEAT IS NEW AND INVOLVES NOT REGIONAL
CONSENSUS, BUT RATHER ROTATION AMONG REGIONS, CONTEST
PRESENTED MEMBERSHIP WITH CHOICE OF 2 REGIONS, MESA
AND SEAP (FAR EAST MEMBER HAS HELD SEAT SINCE 1973).
IN THIS ELECTION, CANDIDATES WERE PAKISTAN (MESA)
AND INDONESIA (SEAP) AND REST OF AGENCY MEMBERSHIP
WAS LEFT TO DETERMINE AS BEST THEY COULD WHICH OF THE
TWO ENJOYED MAJORITY SUPPORT WITHIN THESE VERY LARGE
AND DISPARATE REGIONS. A GREAT NUMBER OF DELS HELD
THE VIEW THAT SINCE THE MESA GROUP ALREADY OCCUPIED
THE SECOND OF THE "FLOATING SEATS" ON THE BOARD (IRAQ),
IT WOULD BE UNEQUITABLE TO AWARD THE OTHER "FLOATING
SEAT" TO THE SAME REGION. OTHERS, INCLUDING THE
SOVIETS, DISAPPROVED OF CONSECUTIVE SERVICE
ON THE BOARD BY VIRTUE OF SWITCHING FROM ONE CATEGORY
OF MEMBERSHIP (REGIONAL SEAT) TO ANOTHER (FLOATING
SEAT). VOTE WAS AGAIN CLOSE, WITH INDONESIA GARNERING
43 OF 41 VOTES NEEDED FOR ELECTION. PAKISTAN RECEIVED
36 VOTES AND BANGLADESH ONE VOTE.
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6. ELECTION OF NETHERLANDS AND DENMARK TO TWO WE SEATS, POLAND AND YUGOSLAVIA TO TWO EE SEATS, AND BANGLADESH TO MESA SEAT BEING VACATED BY PAKISTAN WAS NEARLY UNANIMOUS.

7. PRINCIPLE OF ROTATION AND REGIONAL CHOICE DID SURVIVE THE CONTEST, BUT ONLY BY HAIRSBREADTH. INTEREST IN AFFAIRS OF AGENCY HAS GROWN SINCE INDIAN EXPLOSION OF MAY 1974 AND HAS BEEN HEIGHTENED FURTHER BY NPT REVCON. THIS INTEREST IS CLEARLY EVIDENT IN DESIRE OF GROWING NUMBER OF STATES TO SERVE ON AGENCY'S POWERFUL BOARD OF GOVERNORS. IT SEEMS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THIS AMBITION WILL CONTINUE TO SPREAD AND THAT COMPETITION WITHIN REGIONAL GROUPS WILL LEAD TO WEAKENING OF ADHERENCE TO CONCEPT OF REGIONAL CONSENSUS. (SOVIETS AND THEIR COLLEAGUES VOTED AGAINST PHILIPPINES AND PAKISTAN SOLELY, THEY SAID, BECAUSE ROTATIONAL TURN OR NOT, THEY DISAPPROVED OF A MEMBER SERVING CONSECUTIVE ELECTED TERMS OF OFFICE ON BOARD.) MISSION FORESEES A SIMILAR SITUATION FACING MEMBERS IN 1976 SESSION OF GC WHEN ELECTIONS ARE AGAIN HELD. TAPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, SPECIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975IAEAV08300
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750337-0093
From: IAEA VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975096/aaaaaeyw.tel
Line Count: 249
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

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EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IAEA 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE, ELECTION TO BOARD OF GOVERNORS
TAGS: OCON, AORG, PARM, TECH, IAEA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006